(c) The amount involved in the irregularities alleged against the said companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Inspections under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 are part of the regular activities of the Department, and are ordered from time to time.

(b) and (c) In the current financial year, inspection of 173 Companies has been ordered upto September 2001. Irregularities committed, if any, by the companies may, or may not, have financial implications.

Streamlining of Judiciary

842. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras High Court had expunged certain remarks of a subordinate judge/judges of Chennai as unwarranted; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to streamline judiciary and to have a code of conduct for the judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The information is being collected from the Madras High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Government proposes to set up a National Judicial Commission which will, *inter alia,* draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary.

Quicker Dispensation of Justice as Anti-Terrorism Measure

843. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) while welcoming anti-terrorism measures being adopted by Government either through legislation or through tightening of vigilance content or law enforcing agencies becoming more active. Whether Government are also thinking of measures which would ensure quicker dispensation of justice in such cases, through a time-bound judicial verdict; and

(b) if so, whether such measures would be introduced early so that a sense of deterrence could be installed in the minds of potential criminals who very often take advantage of dilatory tactics in judicial proceedings and processes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government is concerned with quicker dispensation of justice in all cases including cases under anti-terrorism measures.

Various measures have been taken by Government for the quicker dispensation of justice including in criminal cases. Steps are being taken to simplify the procedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Law Commission in its 154th Report has also made a number of recommendations on the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill 1994 has been moved in Rajya Sabha which has, *inter alia,* the following proposals to provide for speedy disposal of cases:—

(i) Clause 26: The proviso to section 223 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides that the Magistrate on an application of the accused persons may direct their joint trial even if they do not fall in the categories specified, if he is satisfied that such persons would not be prejudicially affected thereby. In the interest of prompt disposal of cases, scope of this proviso is being widened to enable the Court of Sessions also to hold such trials.

(ii) Clause 27: Under section 228 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, a Sessions Judge can transfer a case only to the Chief Judical Magistrate. The proposed amendment seeks to give discretion to the Sessions Judge to transfer the case to the Chief Judicial Magistrate or to any other Judicial Magistrate of the First Class and to fix a date for the appearance of the accused before the Chief Judicial Magistrate or the Judicial Magistrate, as the case may be, so that a lot of time, which is wasted in summoning the accused by the Magistrate, may be saved.

(iii) Clause 28: Under sub-section (1) of section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 a Magistrate has a discretion to try offences specified therein either summarily or in a regular way. It is proposed to amend this sub-section to make summary trial of offences specified therein mandatory. It is also proposed to provide that the offence of theft and other cognizable offences, namely, offences under sections 379, 380, 381, 411 and 414 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 may be tried summarily where the value of the property involved does not exceed two thousand rupees instead of two hundred rupees at present.

The Government of India has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice V.S. Malimath to suggest measures to revamp Criminal Justice System in the country. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

In addition to above various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of criminal cases. These include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Magistrates, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, Fast Track Courts, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Disappearance of Companies after mobilisation of money from share market

†844. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies have mobilised money from share market after implementation of economic liberalization policy in the country and have either disappeared or declared themselves sick;

(b) if so, the number of such companies during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the amount so mobilised from the common investors of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 958.90 crores is alleged to have been collected through public issue by 176 such companies.

Advocates Appointed to Plead cases of Government in Foreign Courts

†845. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advocates are appointed to plead the cases of Government of India which are in the foreign courts;

(b) if so, the total number of advocates appointed till September, 2001 and the names thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.